GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5936
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2005
LEVELING OF LAND
Mahto Shri Tek Lal

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether large pits and ditches have occurred due to coal mining by CCI and BCCL ofCoal India Limited in Jharkhand:

(b) if so; whether the Government proposes to make the land useful for cultivation and afforestation by filling these pits and ditches:

(c) if so. the details thereof; and

(d) the land made useful for cultivation and afforestation by leveling it by the abovementioned coal companies during the last three years, region-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL (DR.DASARI NARAYANA RAO)

(a) During the process of open cast mining,all voids created during excavation of coal are not filled up by backfilling, and some portion of excavated land remains unfilled in coal mines at the time of closure of mines. In Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) & Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) exhausted open cast mines have some voids. These voids are generally converted into large water storage tanks,which cater to the domestic and industrial use of nearby mines and colonies/villages.

(b)&(c) Reclaimed land after filling the voids is used for afforestation, which is generally entrusted to forest department. However,possibilities of having fruit yielding trees or cash crops are under consideration to make these sustainable and cost effective.

(d) The total area of reclaimed land during the last three years which has been made useful by afforestation are 692.2 Ha & 278 at CCL and BCCL respectively.